

of approval. Approved changes to the "red lined" drawings will be incorporated in the formal drawings to be submitted after allowance.

2. The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of informalities. The Examiner is thanked for calling these to the applicant's attention. The Specification has been amended to provide consistency in language throughout. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's reference to two descriptions of Figure 19 is not understood. Applicant believes the description of Figure 19 on page 12 to read "Figure 19 is a top plan view of an alternative embodiment of the present invention including an elastic strip." Clarification is requested.
3. Claims 26 - 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,534,010 (Peterson). Claim 26 has been amended to include the feature of the first section and the third section as being integral to the second section at respective margins. The Examiner has rejected this feature, formerly in claim 31 under Peterson. The applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. The margins indicated by the Examiner on the Peterson reference are not integrally formed with the second section, but rather form an edge on the first and third sections onto which the filaments 46 are connected. The filaments 46 or second section, have no margin and further, even if the filaments 46 were ribbon-like as suggested in column 3, line 32, the "margin" formed would not be contiguous as in the present invention. Claim 27 has been rewritten as claim 106 and now depends from amended claim 33, indicated to be allowable if rewritten and as such, is also believed to be allowable. Claims 28 - 30, inclusive, have been rewritten as claims 107 - 109, inclusive, to depend from claim 106 (originally claim 27), which in turn now depends from allowable base claim 33. Claims 28 - 30 as rewritten as claims 107 -

109 now depend from an allowable base claim and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 31 has been deleted, without prejudice.

4. Claims 26, 32, 36, 37, 41, 42, 46, 47, and 49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,788,660 (Resnik). Independent claims 26 and 36 have been amended to include the feature of the second section including margins whereby the first and third sections are integral with the second section. This feature is neither claimed nor disclosed in the Resnick reference. The Resnick reference shows a sheet 12 having eyelets 13 for receiving lacing 16. The lacing 16 of the Resnick reference is not integrally formed with the margins of the sheet 16, rather the sheet 16 receives the lacing through the eyelets formed therein. Claims 26 and 36, as amended are believed allowable over the Resnick reference. Claim 32 depends from amended base claim 26 and as such, is believed to be allowable. Claims 37, 42, 46, 47 and 49 depend from amended base claim 36, and thereby carry the features contained therein. As such claims 37, 42, 46, and 49 are believed to be in condition for allowance and avoid the Resnick reference. Claim 41 has been deleted, without prejudice.
5. Claims 38 - 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Resnick. Claims 38 - 40 depend from amended claim 36, which now includes the feature of first and third sections integrally formed with the margins of the second section. Claims 38 - 40 carry with them the features contained in the base claim. As discussed in paragraph 4 above, the Resnick reference neither teaches nor claims a second section having margins integrally formed with the first and third sections. Claims 38 - 40 are believed to be in condition of allowance.

6. Claims 50 - 54, inclusive have been rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Resnick. Claims 50 - 54 depend from amended base claim 36. As discussed with reference to paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Resnick reference neither claims nor discloses the features contained in the amended base claim. Accordingly, claims 50 - 54 are believed to be in condition of allowance over the Resnick reference.
7. The Examiner has indicated that claims 33 - 35 and 43 - 45 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 33 - 35 and 43 - 45 have been rewritten according to the Examiner's suggestion, and are now believed to be allowable as such.
8. The Examiner has not addressed claim 48 in the above-mentioned Office Action, however, the Applicant asserts that this claim is in condition for allowance as being dependent on an amended base claim.
9. The Applicant calls the Examiner's attention to the attached copies of the Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney and Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status filed with copending Application No. 09/180,572 of which the present application is a divisional application, and showing the corrected PCT priority date.

Applicant respectfully requests that the objections and rejections be removed, that amended claims 26, 33, 36, 43, and 46, claims 32, 34 - 35, 37 - 40, 42, 44 - 45, and 47 - 54, inclusive, and newly added claims 104 - 117, inclusive, be passed to allowance.

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Enclosures: Amendment Transmittal
Three (3) pages of amended drawings
Clean set of claims from Amendment
Copy of the parent Declaration/Power of Attorney and Small Entity
Return post card

Serial No. 09/616,870

Atty. Docket No.: 8115.12394A PCT US

Clean amended claims from Amendment A dated 14 December 2000

Claim 26 (amended)

A dressing mechanism comprising: a first section, a second section, and a third section; the first section being coupled to the second section and the second section being coupled to the third section; the second section comprising an elastic material; the first section and the third section each having a first side; and a predetermined portion of the first side including an adhesive located thereon; and wherein the second section includes a first linear margin and a second linear margin; the first section being integral to the second section at the first margin; and the third section being integral to the second section at the second margin.

Claims 27 – 31, inclusive, have been deleted.

Claim 32 remains as originally presented.

Claim 33 (amended)

A dressing mechanism comprising: a first section, a second section, and a third section; the first section being coupled to the second section and the second section being coupled to the third section; the second section comprising an elastic material; the first section and the third section each having a first side; and a predetermined portion of the first side including an adhesive located thereon; the first section and the third section being laminated materials comprising a first layer, a second intermediate layer, and a third layer; the third layer including the first side and wherein the second section

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includes a first margin and a second margin; the first section includes a first channel located between the first layer and the third layer of the first section for receiving the first margin; and the second section includes a second channel located between the first layer and the third layer of the second section for receiving the second margin; the second intermediate layer comprising an adhesive material; the first margin and the second margin respectively including at least one opening; the first margin engaging the second intermediate layer in the first channel and the adhesive material extending through the opening of the first margin; and the second margin engaging the second intermediate layer in the second channel and the adhesive material extending through the opening of the second margin.

Claims 34 - 35 remain as originally presented.

Claim 36 (amended)

A dressing mechanism comprising: a first section, a second section, and a third section; the first section being coupled to the second section and the second section being coupled to the third section; the first section and the third section comprising an elastic material; the first section and the third section each having a first side; and a predetermined portion of the first side including an adhesive located thereon; and wherein the second section includes at least one margin; the first section being integral to the second section at the margin; and the third section being integral to the second section at the margin.

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Claims 37 - 40, inclusive remain as originally presented.

Claim 41 has been deleted.

Claim 42 remains as originally presented.

Claim 43 (amended)

A dressing mechanism comprising: a first section, a second section, and a third section; the first section being coupled to the second section and the second section being coupled to the third section; the first section and the third section comprising an elastic material; the first section and the third section each having a first side; a predetermined portion of the first side including an adhesive located thereon; and wherein the second section is a laminated material comprising at least a first layer, a second intermediate layer, and a third layer; the third layer including the first side; the first section and the third section include a first section margin and a third section margin; the second section including at least one channel located between the first layer and the third layer of the second section for receiving the margins; the second intermediate layer comprising an adhesive material; the first section margin and the second section margin respectively including at least one opening; the margins engaging the second intermediate layer in the channel and the adhesive material extending

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through the openings of the margins; and the adhesive material extending through the openings of the margins.

Claims 44 -45 remain as originally presented.

Claim 46 (amended)

The dressing mechanism of claim 43 wherein the second section includes at least one opening.

Claims 47 - 54, inclusive remain as originally presented.

Claim 104

The dressing mechanism of claim 26 wherein the second section comprises a web of planar material.

Claim 105

The dressing mechanism of claim 104 wherein the web is latex rubber.

Claim 106

The dressing of claim 33 wherein the second section includes a plurality of openings.

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Claim 107

The dressing mechanism of claim 106 wherein the openings are of a predetermined size.

Claim 108

The dressing mechanism of claim 106 wherein the openings are of a predetermined shape.

Claim 109

The dressing mechanism of claim 108 wherein the openings of predetermined shape are spatially organized in a predetermined manner respective to each other.

Claim 110

The dressing mechanism of claim 43 wherein the second section includes at least one generally transparent section.

Claim 111

The dressing mechanism of claim 43 wherein the second section includes at least one wound irrigation mechanism.

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Claim 112

The dressing mechanism of claim 43 wherein the second section comprises a first side and a second side; the second side capable of contacting a wound.

Claim 113

The dressing mechanism of claim 112 wherein the second side comprises a medicinal material.

Claim 114

The dressing mechanism of claim 113 wherein the medicinal material comprises zinc chromate.

Claim 115

The dressing mechanism of claim 113 wherein the medicinal material comprises zinc chromate impregnated in a hydrocolloid material.

Claim 116

The dressing mechanism of claim 113 wherein the medicinal material comprises an alginate.

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Claim 117

The dressing mechanism of claim 116 wherein the alginate comprises one of the group consisting of calcium alginate and sodium alginate.